PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM

CIRCULAR OF INFORMATION

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

1928

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THE PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM, under the title of "The Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science," but changed by act of Legislature in 1915 to the simpler and more fitting one of "Peabody Museum of Salem," was founded in 1867 for the "Promotion of Science and Useful Knowledge in the County of Essex," by George Peabody, born in South Danvers, now Peabody, Essex County, Massachusetts, February 18, 1795, and died in London, November 8, 1869.

The East India Marine Hall, erected in 1824, was purchased and refitted, and the Museum of the East India Marine Society (begun in 1799) and the Natural History Collections of the Essex Institute (begun in 1834) were received by the trustees as permanent deposits and placed therein. To these have been added many valuable collections especially in the Marine and Oriental departments.

The arrangement of the museum is educational, and not merely for the purpose of exhibiting curiosities. It is especially designed to aid the teachers of the County in connection with school work. The officers of the museum will gladly assist teachers and classes in the examination of the collections, if notified beforehand; and it is suggested that classes of twenty or less will gain much more information than when the number is larger.

The institution is for the benefit of the residents of the more remote portions of Essex County as well as those in the immediate vicinity of Salem, although under the trust the museum must be in Salem, and the work largely carried on there.

The collections may be summarized as follows:

ENTRANCE CORRIDOR

The cases at the right contain objects illustrating the natural history of whales and the whaling industry — pictures and models of whaling vessels, harpoons, lances, bomb-lance guns, logs, outfit and products of the chase; also a valuable and interesting collection of nautical instruments covering a period of two hundred years. The exhibits in the cases at the left are frequently changed to illustrate subjects of timely interest.

MARINE ROOM (at left from middle entry)

In this room is arranged a collection of portraits of prominent Salem merchants, members and officers of the East India Marine Society, together with many interesting relics connected with the early social character of that institution, objects associated with a sailor's life and models and pictures of Salem merchant vessels. This collection forms an interesting memorial of the commercial marine history of Salem and is of great assistance to students of Marine architecture.

HALL OF NATURAL HISTORY (first hall upstairs)

As the visitor enters the hall he will find on the right a very full series of the local animals, of which the bird collection is especially noteworthy, a local geological collection, and several special exhibits of practical and scientific interest, particularly those illustrating the compound microscope and the teeth of the horse; on the left the specimens are arranged systematically from the lowest to the highest groups and represent many forms of animal life from all parts of the world.

In the galleries above are displayed very full collections of local prehistoric relics, local minerals and rocks, and woods of the county trees; here also will be found systematic and local exhibits of insects, a small type collection of minerals arranged according to Dana's Mineralogy, one of fossils illustrating historical geology from the oldest to the most recent formations, and a number of interesting botanical specimens. A large herbarium of the county plants is kept in the botanical room in Weld Hall as is also the Morris collection of 1,100 water color drawings of fungi, to which students may have access by applying to the constable or officer in charge. Here also are extensive collections of the insects of the county and vicinity.

HALL OF ETHNOLOGY

(Enter from southeastern end of Hall of Natural History)

This hall contains a collection arranged by countries, illustrating the utensils, implements of war, articles of dress, religion, art, etc., of the natives of the Malay Archipelago, Pacific Islands (floor), Yezo, North and South America and Africa (gallery). The collection covering Marquesas, New Zealand, Fiji and other Pacific Islands is one of the notable collections of the world. Brought together by the sea captains of Salem in the early years of the last century, many of the objects bear dates of over one hundred years ago, and some of them are unique.

WELD HALL (enter from southern end of Hall of Ethnology)

(Gift of Dr. Charles Goddard Weld, 1907)

On the floor of this hall is displayed the Japanese ethnological collection, the largest and most complete possessed by any museum, which very fully illustrates the people, customs, domestic and religious life of old Japan. In the gallery are collections from China, Siam, India, Tibet and Korea.*

So far as possible, all specimens in the museum are clearly marked with their names and locality and, in the case of gifts, with the name of the giver. Large cards and signs in and on the cases indicate the classification of the collections.

The publications issued consist of memoirs and annual reports, and special papers relating to the collections in the museum, pocket guides to the birds and mammals of Essex County, etc. Lectures upon subjects connected with natural history and ethnology are given in Academy Hall, an audience room opened by the trustees in 1886, and classes in natural history are conducted yearly. The Museum is visited by about 65,000 persons annually.

The trustees and officers wish the public to receive every possible advantage from the Museum, and they hope that all who are able to do so will aid them by contributing toward the increase and improvement of the collections, which have been received almost wholly by gift. The work is conducted and the Museum maintained entirely from the income of the trust funds and the contributions of generous friends. The annual expenses have increased with the growth of the Museum, and the work and usefulness of the institution could be greatly advanced by additions to its funds and income.

*For the art of these countries the visitor is referred to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

In answer to numerous inquiries: The Essex Institute (132 Essex Street) has a valuable collection of objects relating to the early history of New England, open free to the public, and an excellent library on local history, genealogy, art, commercial marine, China, etc. The Institute distributes gratuitously a printed list of places of historical interest in Salem.

PEABODY MUSEUM OF SALEM

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J. RUSSELL TREADWELL, *Supt. of Buildings and Agent of Academy Hall*

DANIEL F. HOGAN, *Janitor*
ALBERT F. HALL, *Special Constable*

The publications of the Museum may be obtained from the constable, who will also direct visitors where any particular collection may be found. Those who desire information regarding the specimens, or in relation to scientific subjects, will please request the constable to call some officer of the Museum. There is no fee whatever for any assistance which may be rendered.

The museum is open every week-day, including holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays 2 to 5 p.m., from May 1 to September 30, 1 to 4 p.m. from October 1 to April 30.

FREE TO ALL

5-11-28—10,000